

Howes-Jorgenson House
State Route 6A
Dennis
Barnstable County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-731

HABS
MASS,
1-DEN,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOWES--JORGENSEN HOUSE

HABS No. MA-731

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Location: Route 6A, north of Elm Street in Dennis Center.
Dennis, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Miss Dorothea Setzer.
150 East 50th Street.
New York, New York,
and Dennis, Massachusetts.

Present Use: Summer residence.

Significance: This Cape Cod "double house" of unusually large dimensions (40 feet across the front), is a good example of those built during the mid-18th century on the Cape. It contained a good mantel and the interior panelling. It is located within the area of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: CA. 1766-1788.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original plans of construction: None known to exist.
4. Original and subsequent owners: The house was built by Daniel Howes, a farmer, and was said to be one of the finest houses in Dennis. It passed to one of Daniel Howes' daughters, who married a Jorgenson, and remained in that family until the early 1930s. In the 1930s Mrs. Hayden Richardson bought it and later sold it to Mrs. Earnest Dahl. In 1946 Mrs. Morrison H. Hallett, mother of Miss Setzer bought it
5. Condition of fabric: Excellent.
6. Alterations and additions: A bedroom at the rear left, with segmental vaulted (lath and plaster) ceiling is believed to have been added shortly after the house was built. The house was restored and enlarged on the north side in 1936. In the "restoration" the original kitchen mantel and overmantel were covered with new woodwork.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Daniel Howes was a farmer. This building, originally a farmhouse, was said to be one of the finest houses in Dennis. Measured drawings of the mantel and one interior and one exterior photograph of the house are in Alfred Easton Poor, Colonial Architecture of Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard New York: William Helburn, (1932) plates 2, 107, 128.

In Poor the house is titled "Jorgenson House" and dated ca. 1850.

Daniel Howes is recorded in Joshua Crowell Howes, Geneology of the Howes Family in America 1637 - 1892. (Yarmouth Port, 1892), pp. 26, 42.

Important old views: Miss Setzer has an ambrotype of ca. 1860, showing the house with the rear bedroom existing.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

1. Foundations: Stone.
2. Wall construction, finish: Timber frame, on plank; clapboard front, shingle sides.
3. Openings:
 - a. Doors: Six-panel front door.
 - b. Windows: Windows are nine-over-six light.
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 - c. Shutters: The blinds are in fixed slots.
4. Roof, shape, covering: Pitched Cape Cod, roof covered with shingles.
Cornice, eaves: Box cornice.
5. Chimneys: One large central chimney.
6. Stairways: Central front stairway between chimneys.
7. Floor: Random width pine approximately 12' 18", originally in the front two rooms.
8. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster with wainscoting in the two front rooms.
9. Doorways and doors: There are three-panel doors throughout the house.
10. Trim: Original mantels in the rooms on the front left.
11. Hardware: Lift bar, latch door. HL hinge front closet door.

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